Statement

Stock position of Wheat & Rice in the Central Pool vis-à-vis minimum buffer norms

(in lakh tonnes)

As on	Wheat		Rice		Total	
	Actual stock	Minimum buffer norms	Actual stock	Minimum buffer norms	Actual stock	Minimum buffer norms
1.1.2002	324.15	84.00	256.17	84.00	580.32	168.00
1.4.2002	260.39	40.00	249.12	118.00	509.51	158.00
1.7.2002	410.74	143.00	219.37	100.00	630.11	243.00
1.10.2002	356.37	116.00	157.70	65.00	514.07	181.00
1.1.2003	288.30	84.00	193.72	84.00	482.02	168.00
1.4.2003	156.45	40.00	171.57	118.00	328.02	158.00
1.7.2003	241.94	143.00	109.74	100.00	351.68	243.00
1.10.2003	184.27	116.00	52.41	65.00	236.68	181.00
1.1.2004	126.87	84.00	117.27	84.00	244.14	168.00
1.4.2004	69.31	40.00	130.69	118.00	200.00	158.00
1.7.2004	191.52	143.00	107.63	100.00	299.15	243.00
1.10.2004	142.23	116.00	60.92	65.00	203.15	181.00
1.1.2005	89.31	84.00	127.63	84.00	216.94	181.00
1.4.2005	40.66	40.00@	133.41	122.00@	174.07	162.00@
1.7.2005	144.54	171.00@	100.71	98.00@	245.25	269.00@
1.10.2005	102.90	110.00@	48.49	52.00@	151.39	162.00@
1.1.2006	61.8	82.00@	126.41	118.00@	188.29	200.00@

@New Buffer Norms w.e.f. 1.4.2005.

Subsidies on BPL items

1225. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the incidence of subsidies on items meant for Below Poverty Line (BPL) population in the country;

(b) whether the distribution of subsidized items is done through the public distribution system; and

(c) whether a large amount of subsidies are going to the mills/factories where such items are value-added?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), foodgrains (rice & wheat) and sugar are distributed for the families below poverty line (BPL). Subsidies are also given on domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene irrespective of whether the consumer belongs to BPL family or not.

Foodgrains :

Subsidised foodgrains (rice & wheat) for the BPL families are issued under TPDS at the central issue prices of Rs. 565 per quintal for rice and Rs. 415 per quintal for wheat through fair price shops all over the country. Some States have entrusted the work to Co-operatives.

Sugar :

The Government has restructured the public distribution system in respect of sugar with effect from 1.2.2001, under which the supply of levy sugar has been restricted to only BPL families except in the North Eastern States, Hilly States and Island Territories. Sugar is issued at Rs. 13.20 per kilogram under PDS.

LPG and Kerosene :

The distribution of domestic LPG is not made through the PDS but distribution of PDS kerosene is done through PDS.

(c) An evaluation study of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) conducted by the Planning Commission covering eighteen major States has observed that out of the subsidized foodgrains under the TPDS there is leakage of about 19.71 percent at Fair Price Shops (FPS) level and about 16.67 per cent of the foodgrains is diverted through ghost cards. In addition, the TPDS suffers from diversion of subsidized grains to unintended beneficiaries (above poverty line (APL) households) because of errors of inclusion. However, the report is based on old primary data of 2001-2002. As several changes like introduction of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), change in the scale of issue, etc. have taken place since then, it is difficult to totally rely on this report.

Various studies have indicated that a proportion of the subsidized products, i.e., domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene are being diverted for other uses or do not reach the intended beneficiaries.

LPG cylinders through FPS

1226. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to distribute LPG cylinders through fair price shops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any modalities have been worked out in this regard;

(d) whether Government are also thinking of allotting STD/ISD booths to fair price shops; and

(e) what are the other innovative methods Government are thinking of to increase the monthly income of the owners of the fair price shops and also providing more and more items to people through fair price shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has not agreed with the proposal as it is not a practical proposition to put domestic LPG in FPS as LPG is not a rationed good. LPG is a purely commercial good marketed by Government Oil Companies through their distributors appointed as per their commercial considerations.

(d) FPSs have been allowed to be used as STD/ISD booths as these booths are allotted liberally to all eligible applicants of 18 years and above age.

(e) At present the Central Government makes available wheat, rice, sugar & K. Oil under the Public Distribution System to the State Government for distribution through the Fair Price Shops (FPS). In order to increase the viability of FPSs, the State Governments have been advised to allow the FPSs, to deal with other items of daily consumption/ use also. Some States have already allowed sale of such items through the FPSs to increase the monthly income of FPSs.